

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A message for communication among network elements, the message comprising:
 2 at least one media identifier including a first section and a second section; wherein the
 3 first section identifies one of a stored media file retrieved by a network element and
 4 an action item performed by the network element, and the second section identifies a
 5 media file type of the stored media file when the first section identifies the stored
 6 media file.
- 1 2. The message of claim 2, wherein the stored media file includes one of an
 2 announcement and a non-announcement type media file, the non-announcement type
 3 media file including media other than announcements and the announcement type
 4 media file including an announcement.
- 1 3. The message of claim 2, wherein the second section includes a first group of bits
 2 identifying whether an announcement or non-announcement type media file is
 3 identified by the at least one media identifier.
- 1 4. The message of claim 3, wherein the second section includes a second group of bits,
 2 and when an announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the
 3 second group of bits identifies whether an announcement in the identified
 4 announcement type media file is interruptible or uninterruptible.
- 1 5. The message of claim 4, wherein the second group of bits identifies whether an
 2 interruptible announcement is interruptible with one of DTMF, speech and both
 3 DTMF and speech.
- 1 6. The message of claim 3, wherein when an announcement type media file is identified
 2 by the first group of bits, the first group of bits also identifying whether the
 3 announcement is a menu item.

- 1 7. The message of claim 6, wherein the second section includes a third group of bits,
2 and when an announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the
3 third group of bits identifying a menu offset used to determine the next announcement
4 to play to a caller.
- 1 8. The message of claim 7, wherein the at least one media identifier includes a plurality
2 of media identifiers, and the menu offset is used to identify one of the plurality of
3 media identifiers.
- 1 9. The message of claim 6, wherein the second section includes a third group of bits,
2 and when a non-announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits,
3 the third group of bits identifies one of a media file format and an action item code.
- 1 10. The message of claim 1, wherein the media file includes one of video, fax, music,
2 data and an announcement.
- 1 11. The message of claim 1, wherein the plurality of network elements include network
2 elements in a telecommunications network.
- 1 12. The message of claim 11, wherein the telecommunications network includes an
2 intelligent network, and the plurality of network elements include an intelligent
3 peripheral and a service control point.
- 1 13. A system available to provide a multimedia service, comprising:
2 a first network element transmitting a message, the message including at least one
3 media identifier identifying a media file and including a first section and a second
4 section; wherein the first section identifies one of a stored media file and an action
5 item, and the second section identifies a media file type of the stored media file when
6 the first section identifies the stored media file; and
7 a second network element receiving the message and connectable to a database
8 storing the media file.

- 1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the first and second network elements are included
2 in an intelligent network providing multimedia services.
- 1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the message identifies one of an announcement,
2 video, music, fax and data.
- 1 16. A message for communicating a plurality of menu items to a network element, the
2 message comprising:
3 a plurality of media identifiers, each media identifier identifying a menu item; and
4 at least one of the plurality of media identifiers including a menu offset used to
5 identify another one of the plurality of media identifiers in response to a user input.
- 1 17. The message of claim 16, wherein each menu item includes one of an announcement
2 and an action item.
- 1 18. The message of claim 16, wherein each media identifier includes a first section and a
2 second section; wherein the first section identifies one of a stored media file retrieved
3 by a network element and an action item performed by the network element, and the
4 second section identifies a media file type of the stored media file when the first
5 section identifies the stored media file.
- 1 19. A method of processing a message for communicating between network elements, the
2 message having a format including a plurality of media identifiers, each media
3 identifier identifying one of a media file and an action item, the method comprising
4 steps of:
5 receiving the message and storing the message in memory;
6 decoding a first media identifier of said plurality of media identifiers, the first media
7 identifier including a menu offset;
8 receiving a user input; and
9 selecting a second media identifier of said plurality of media identifiers to decode
10 based upon the user input and the menu offset.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein each of said plurality of media identifiers identifies
2 a menu item for a menu.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the first media identifier identifies an
2 announcement prompting the user to select one of a plurality of the menu items and
3 further comprising a step of playing the announcement to the user after decoding the
4 first media identifier.